

THE VALE OF GLAMORGAN COUNCIL

CABINET: 6TH JUNE, 2024

REFERENCE FROM VOLUNTARY SECTOR JOINT LIAISON COMMITTEE: 29TH JANUARY, 2024

“746 RESHAPING: THE NEXT PHASE OF TRANSFORMATION (REF) -

The reference from Cabinet of 18th January, 2024 was presented by the Director of Corporate Resources who advised that the report set out the proposals for the next phase of the Council’s transformation programme for Reshaping. Reshaping being the transformational change programme which had been launched in 2015 and which enabled the Council to mitigate the impact of austerity whilst delivering significant financial savings.

Having regard to the significant financial challenge facing the Council in the medium term the report stated it was now time for Reshaping to be refocussed and that the report set out a framework and early ideas for progressing transformational change and the five themes of target operating model, service transformation, strengthening communities, digital innovation and economic resilience. Cabinet had referred the report to the Voluntary Sector Joint Liaison Committee for consideration.

The Director of Corporate Resources commented that it was important for the programme to have a more financial imperative towards it and in particular to look at how the Council operated the organisation, how it uses technology and how it met the needs of its residents.

Having regard to the section on service transformation, the Chair enquired as to whether the Director envisaged this to be a proactive or reactive programme. In response, the Director advised that in reality it would probably be a bit of both stating that the Council was always open to approaches from community groups and would welcome discussions with them going forward. The Chair advised that in her experience community groups and organisations within the Vale have good ideas but do not necessarily know they can approach the Council to have such discussions. This was something the Director stated the programme would be important for raising awareness order to encourage those discussions to take place.

Having regard to paragraph 2.14 of the report and the place-based approach, Councillor Buckley requested some further information in relation to this area of activity. The Director, in response, advised that some significant funding for Transforming Towns had been received to enable the Council to look at place based work in the four towns. The Council was looking to adopt a place-based approach as to how services can be delivered and how they are invested. He stated that the project would be looking at the assets available within the county and also the needs and demands in a particular area.

R. Connor in commenting on the Community Asset Transfer process advised that she was pleased to note that the Council was looking to streamline the process going forward. From the Third Sector perspective she would be looking for consideration in regard to the services that could be considered for further involvement by the Third Sector. The Director in response advised that although it had been said previously he did consider that the current year was the most challenging year ever financially with the Council wanting to try and protect the services that mattered the most to the residents of the Vale. There was now an opportunity for the Council to think differently and that the Council had a willingness to work in this way and to undertake considerable engagement with the sectors as it worked through the programme.

The Chair, in conclusion stated that in light of the comments made at the meeting it was clear that the Committee welcomed the approach to transformation it being acknowledged there would be a proactive and responsive approach to engagement. She was also encouraged by the intention to streamline the Community Asset Transfer process and referred to the Third Sector's comments in relation to welcoming the opportunity to work more closely with the Council in relation to service transformation approach.

Having regard to the comments made at the meeting, it was subsequently

AGREED – T H A T Cabinet be informed that the Committee welcomed the intention to streamline the Community Asset Transfer process and the Third Sector welcomed the opportunity to work more closely with the Council in relation to the service transformation approach.

Reason for recommendation

Having considered the report and discussions at the meeting.”